

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.**

The meeting started at 19:40.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
John Askwith  
Ruth Carroll  
Peter Baker  
Gerry Mudd  
Kevin Richardson  
Kevin Hillary  
Mike Wood from 20:40  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

John Hargreaves

### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors as a correct and accurate record of the meeting with the following corrections.

Item 15 Possibly should read possible in the line: Trust activities included the possible donation of an operational model railway this should be investigated further as a possible display in the Education Room.

Item 5 Directors initials to be removed and the 2<sup>nd</sup> line to be removed.

Item 7 Lines 5 and 6 should read:

The cash flow information on page 3 shows that since the last full report, we have made a substantial payment to Multi-Tal and been able to transfer most of our cash to our Darlington Building Society account.

The transaction Detail account on page 4 has been reported on before and shows the status of the financing of the Heritage services company.

Item 10 Para 5 – and should read an

Item 12b remove the word out from 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

Item 15 The following sentence is to be included in this item, - The Trust operated a Heritage Railway timetable throughout August.

Item 17b the final sentence should read: It is planned that the Trust Heritage rail service will be reported.

Proposed: - Gerry Mudd  
Seconded – Kevin Richardson

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting not covered in the agenda**

There were no matters arising

### **4 Any Other Business**

The repairs to Stanhope Station roof to be discussed.

## **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

**Confidential**

## **6 Chairman's Report**

We have had a very successful Heritage Season and thanks to everyone concerned. Ed Ellis has given us the go ahead to run a service next year, so let's get it planned. Let's all start thinking about Polar Express and what we can assist with to ensure another successful event.

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson  
Seconded – Ruth Carroll

## **7 Treasurers' Report**

It has been relatively quiet on the accounts, since the beginning of our year. Memberships have come in steadily, no doubt, because of the Heritage Train success. The shop has done particularly well during this period. A donation of £1000 has been received from Garcia Hanson following the loan of the Trust's Lowmac. Thanks to Richard for arranging that - one of the benefits of his dual role.

On the expenses side, No 40 remains worryingly stagnant. The main expenses being BTL and £500 for materials for Stanhope Station roof.

This leaves a surplus, for the period, of just over £3000; the inter-company account remaining the same.

Proposed: - Mike Wood  
Seconded – Ruth Carroll

## **8 Shop**

The shop continues to perform well with average takings being in the region of £80/day

## **9 Secretary's Report**

The Weardale Railway Trust AGM is to take place on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> November at Stanhope Methodist Church School Room starting at 10:30. Notice of the AGM was communicated to the members in BTL 84. In accordance with the Trust's M&A's the longest serving Directors are required to retire but can re stand should they so choose. The third rotation rule of the Trust Council, Clause 37, requires that 4 Directors retire at each AGM. The longest serving Trust Directors are Richard Maughan, and Ruth Carroll. The next longest serving Directors are John Askwith and John Hargreaves. Nominations to stand have been received from Richard Maughan, Ruth Carroll, John Askwith and Paul Wilson. John Hargreaves has decided not to re-stand due to work commitments.

The Trustees Annual Report for the year to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 is required and must be approved by Council before the AGM on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. Can contributors provide their input as soon as practical.

Health and Safety – There were no Health and Safety items to discuss.

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson  
Seconded – Ruth Carroll

## **10 Heritage Services 2014**

Kevin Richardson outlined the current financial position for the Heritage Service. Costs and future planned expenditure will be covered and a small profit generated.

As reported above Ed Ellis is supportive of the Trust operating a similar service during 2015. Council voted unanimously to plan for a service next year.

Passenger numbers will be collated at the end of the season for reporting at the AGM.

Wolsingham Primary School have booked a special train from Wolsingham to Stanhope and return.

Council decided not to offer a New Year's Day service to the DCC walking club. This group will travel from Wolsingham to Stanhope on the 11:00 departure on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## **11 No 40 Report**

Work has just about ground to a standstill awaiting return of the boiler from Multi-Tal. A small amount of painting continues, but I don't believe the boiler will be returned by the date it has promised (end of October); this is going to seriously delay Number 40's return to service next year.

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Carriage and Wagon**

There has been no C&W activity this month

### **12b Infrastructure**

There is a significant problem with the roof at Stanhope Station. There is water ingress due to the number of damaged tiles on the roof which has been exacerbated by the removal of some of the damaged tiles. A temporary solution has been fitted in the form of plastic sheeting but the situation requires a long term solution. A volunteer is assisting but the use of a contractor should be considered.

The Station lease agreement expires in March 2015 negotiations are commencing to look at a new lease under similar terms but with a longer lease duration.

## **13 Volunteering and Membership**

Membership Report

At the present time we have 583 Trust Members. Out of that 31 are outstanding from August to October.

We will have approx. 38 renewals to go out in the next issue of BTL.

No new members in the last few weeks apart from David Butler has re-joined

Volunteer Report

Volunteering is going well and we have managed to achieve a lot of refreshed competencies and new ones as well. This will stand us in good stead to help with the Polar Express and for next year.

## **14 Projects**

Nothing to report

### **Weardale Railway Trust Activities**

The track has been cleared of boscage as far as the North Pole City site and it is the intention to clear the track as far as Witton-le-Wear station for next year's Heritage Service.

## **16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

Safety management is an on-going issue and is out of conformance with the HMRI's last inspection report. Green Dragon a firm of Safety Consultants are to be used.

There has been a change of General Manager

Polar Express ticket sales are at 28,700 which is in excess of **confidential** in terms of revenue. Remedial work is to be undertaken at Broken Banks to permit the locomotives and stock for the Polar Express to come onto the railway. A Civil Engineer from the US is to inspect the situation at Broken Banks to determine a longer term solution.

The Flail is in need of repair or replacement.

A new 3year contract has been signed with Warner Bros for the Polar Express franchise with a 75 mile exclusivity.

Gerry Mudd is to approach the DCC representative.

**17 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

**17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Peter Baker)**

Peter Baker will discuss the continuance of the Lottery in its current form with Arthur Temple.

**17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

Talks

There is one talk/presentation planned in January 2015.

Publications

Contributions for BTL 85 are required by the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**18 Any other business.**

There was no other business as Stanhope Station roof was covered in Item 12b

The meeting closed at 22:10

**19 The date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> October at the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre Bishop Auckland Station starting at 19:30.**